GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2626
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Qualification for Rio Olympics-2016
Patel Shri Devji Mansingram

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several countries of the world are expediting their preparation for Rio Olympics-2016 whereas only a few players of the country are able to qualify for the said Olympics with minimum standards;
(b) if so, whether the Government has made any efforts to identify the players who have the potential to win medals for the country;
(c) if so, the names of probable strong contenders for medals; and
(d) the details of the efforts made in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) 57 athletes (25 in individual events and 16 members each of men and women Hockey team) have already qualified for participation in Rio Olympics 2016. More sportspersons are expected to qualify for participation in Rio Olympics 2016 as the qualification process will go on upto the first week of July 2016.
Preparations for improving the performance of the sportspersons and teams of the country in international sports events including Rio Olympics 2016 is an ongoing exercise. Coaching camps, customized training within the country and abroad with scientific back-up, competition exposures and engagement of foreign coaches are planned accordingly.
(b) to (d): The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have formulated a Scheme namely, 'Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme' with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games. Focused disciplines are Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Wrestling and Shooting.
106 athletes have been identified so far through a process of research and consultation with the National Sports Federations and National Coaches/ Experts of the relevant disciplines. Financial assistance is being provided to these athletes for customized training and other support. The list of athletes identified under TOP Scheme is attached as ANNEXURE-I.
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